

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-12 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is canceled by the present amendment and Claims 2 and 3 are amended to be in independent form. Support for the amendments is found at least in originally filed claims. Thus, no new matter is added.

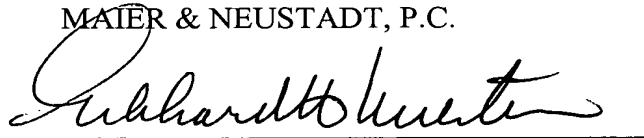
In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Wada (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,292) and Claims 2-6 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-12 were indicated as allowable.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been canceled and Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 and objection to Claims 2-6 are moot.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/MS/law

I:\ATTY\MS\PROSECUTION\24S\245942US\245942US AMENDMENT.DOC